

THE  **Idea** 2009 – 2010  
**fund** APPLICATION

**ARTIST(s) NAME(s):** Bill Davenport

**GROUP NAME (if different from above):**

**PROJECT TITLE:** Bill's Junk

**PROJECT SUMMARY: (one sentence or 200 characters)**

A store where art, craft, nature, and salvage are reconciled under the umbrella of commerce.

**Discipline:**

**Visual Arts:**

**Literary Arts:**

**Media:**

**Performing:**

**Other:**

**Artist Contact:** Bill Davenport

**Contact email:** borabora@wt.net

**Contact Phone Number:** 713 863-7112

**Contact Mailing  
Address:**

Bill Davenport  
1125 E 11th st.

Houston, TX 77007

**DESCRIBE YOUR PROJECT: (MAXIMUM 700 WORDS)**

- Describe what form your project will take and how it will be available to the public (i.e. exhibition, public art project, event, performance, publication, website, etc)
  - Motivations for the work and concepts behind the project
  - A brief project timeline and the location your project will take place. (Only list organizations from which you've received prior approval.) If you have not secured a venue, or your project does not require a venue, please explain. If your project is a print or internet-based publication, please talk about your plans for distribution.
- For years, I've been looking for a way to make my extensive collections of art and craft objects, natural curiosities, used hardware, and macrame owls available to the public in a context that is neither a gallery, nor a museum. A context that is familiar, non-threatening, democratic, participatory: a store. The store is an ideal readymade vehicle for viewing, appraisal and appreciation of visual culture. We all visit stores every day.
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  - In my work as a gallery artist, I have played with the limitations and opportunities afforded by the conventional white cube art space; a box that magnifies and insulates all that is placed within it. I have used it to aestheticize ugly trash, to validate kitschy craft, and to stimulate fantasies of more "real" spaces like a timber-framed German barn. But there are many objects whose meaning becomes distorted when isolated from the everyday world in which they were conceived. Bill's Junk store is a low-pressure haven for the appreciation of the incomplete, the flawed, the amateur, the innocent objects for which a gallery context creates insurmountable challenges. A junk store is what it is, and leaves judgments of worthiness to the viewer.
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  - Bill's Junk is open to the public Saturdays from 12-5 pm at a highly visible storefront on E 11th St. in Houston and is, in all formal respects, a small business, buying, selling, accounting, sales tax, etc., except that making money is not its primary goal. The store is currently operating, and has been more popular than I had imagined possible since it's opening in October of 2008.

**4. Budget:** Submit a project budget that estimates all anticipated costs. Please include projected expenses and anticipated income (if any). For anticipated income, indicate if you have applied for, secured, or anticipate additional funds for this project and list the amounts and the potential sources. Please add notes to clarify questions that might arise for the panel.

**Feel free to change any of the suggested line items in the budget  
to items that better fit your project.**

	Budget	Notes
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Fees</b>		
Artist Fees	3000	artist labor
Contractor Fees	1500	paid help
Contractor Fees	\$0.00	
<b>Fees Subtotal</b>	<b>\$4,500.00</b>	

<b>Production</b>		
Tech: Installation	\$1,000.00	purchase of new stock
Tech: Equipment		
Tech: Other	\$280.00	electricity, lighting AC
Venue/Rental Fee	\$6,000.00	12 months @ \$500/mo
Documentation fees	\$360.00	credit card processing fees
<b>Production Subtotal</b>	<b>\$7,640.00</b>	

<b>Marketing</b>		
Marketing: Fliers		
Marketing: Posters		
Marketing: Postcards	\$260.00	
<b>Marketing Subtotal</b>	<b>\$260.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		

<b>INCOME</b>		
Idea Fund	\$3500	
Private Donations		
Merchandise	\$3,600.00	
Ticket Sales		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$7,100.00</b>	

<b>IN-KIND DONATIONS</b>		
Equipment		
Supplies		
Venue	\$6,000.00	
<b>TOTAL IN-KIND</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>	

**5. Biography:** Please submit a short biography (not to exceed one page) about yourself, your group or collective.  
(MAXIMUM 500 WORDS)

Bill Davenport grew up in Springfield, Virginia, a suburb Washington D.C. where he roamed at will on his ten-speed bike, collecting trash and shopping at yard sales, then re-fashioning his finds into a fleet of home-made boats, a hovercraft, and a printing press on his parents' covered patio.

Every day, he finished his homework in class while listening to his teachers talk, then had time to fill thousands of pages in the sketchbooks he always carried with him between the ages of nine and sixteen. When it was time to graduate, someone told him to go to art school, and he attended the Rhode Island School of Design where he earned a BFA in sculpture.

With no hope of a professional career as an artist, Bill continued to make art in his three-hundred year old apartment in Providence, Rhode Island paying the rent by hand-lettering signs on dumpsters, trucks and buildings. His sign jobs grew in size and budget until he had to either buy a cherry-picker truck, or go to graduate school. The University of Massachusetts was free, and nearby, so he went, naively thinking he would be a college teacher. He graduated with an MFA in sculpture in 1990, when the baby boomers that were hired in the 1970's still filled every teaching job in America.

So he drove to Texas with a mattress strapped to the top of his truck, to be a CORE Fellow at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. During the two years of the CORE program, Bill developed a taste for doing nothing except his own work, and in 1993 used the \$30,000 he received on his father's death to buy himself an abandoned duplex with a three-car garage, where he lived and worked for a decade, making the work which brought him regional notoriety (see CV).

In 2006 he bought and repaired a historic commercial building at 1125 E 11th St. and, with this project, is starting a career as a junk dealer.

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Please **SAVE** this document with the document title: "lastname\_firstinitial\_ProjectTitle" and email it to: [tracey@diverseworks.org](mailto:tracey@diverseworks.org) by **OCTOBER 30, 2009**.

**All work samples must be received at DiverseWorks by 5:00 PM  
NOVEMBER 5**

mail or deliver your work sample(s) to: The Idea Fund; c/o DiverseWorks; 1117 E. Freeway; Houston, TX 77002-1108.

\*Materials without a self-addressed stamped envelope will not be returned and will be discarded after 2 months if the applicant has not contacted The Idea Fund staff.

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Work sample annotated lists must be EMAILED to [TRACEY@DIVERSEWORKS.ORG](mailto:TRACEY@DIVERSEWORKS.ORG) and also RECEIVED BY 5:00PM NOV. 5.